

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
21 April 2005 (21.04.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/034718 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A61B**
(21) International Application Number:
PCT/IL2004/000950
(22) International Filing Date: 15 October 2004 (15.10.2004)
(25) Filing Language: English
(26) Publication Language: English
(30) Priority Data:
60/511,548 15 October 2003 (15.10.2003) US
60/599,176 4 August 2004 (04.08.2004) US

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(81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,
PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM,
TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,
ZW.

(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI,
SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— *without international search report and to be republished
upon receipt of that report*

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: AMPLIFICATION-BASED CARDIAC ASSIST DEVICE

(57) Abstract: Apparatus (20) is provided for compressing at least one ventricle of a heart (40). The apparatus includes a plurality of inflatable elements (64) and a pump (24) in fluid communication with the inflatable elements. At least one band (68) is in mechanical communication with the inflatable elements. A portion of the band is adapted to be placed around at least a portion of the heart in mechanical communication with the portion of the heart. The inflatable elements are arranged such that when the inflatable elements are inflated by the pump, the inflatable elements apply more force to the heart via shortening of the portion of the band than via expansion of the inflatable elements against the heart.

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